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The Joys of an Indian Summer – Mangoes & Monsoons

The summer months in India are traditionally lean for incoming tourism. High temperatures and monsoon rains are seen as deterrents. Actually travelers have just not caught on the advantages or indeed the joys of travelling in summer.

Lean season means that the hotels become really affordable. Plus in many cities, the monuments open at sunrise and close at sunset. One can enjoy the air-conditioned comfort of hotels during the hottest parts of the day and visit the monuments in comfort early morning or late afternoon. No jostling with a horde of other tourists either.

Summer also brings many delicious fruits but mangoes are truly the King of Fruits. The pulp, the juice, the fragrance, the colours and the incredible variety make it unique. Cultivated since time immemorial, it is described as the food of gods in the Vedas (ancient Hindu sacred texts). It's best to savour the mangoes in peak season, just before the rains.

The word monsoon brings cheer to all Indians. The summer rains slowly sweep across the country beginning in late May or early June. The intoxicating smell of the dry earth getting drenched make monsoon a favourite season. The farmers rejoice in the showers that promise to bring them prosperity. It's not just the peacocks that dance. Bollywood films are awash with romantic dances in the rain.

Monsoons heralds the season that washes away all dust, leaving behind only freshness. In fact, one of the best ways to rejuvenate is to try an Ayurvedic treatment during the monsoons.

The Joys of an Indian Summer await you.

Kiran Joti
Vice President & Business Head



South India Focus

Jet Airways Konnect to add 30 new flights effective June 13, 2009. Jet Airways' all economy service, will add 30 new flights in its current schedule of 62 daily flights. Jet Airways Konnect will link Hyderabad and Thiruvananthapuram with Chennai, while enhancing current services on the Coimbatore-Chennai sector.

SilkAir to Commence Operations to Hyderabad. SilkAir, a wholly owned subsidiary of Singapore Airlines, has announced that it will commence operations to Hyderabad, India on June 15, 2009, taking over from Singapore Airlines, which currently flies three times a week to Hyderabad. SilkAir has said that it will offer five times weekly services to Hyderabad initially and this will be increased to a daily frequency later in the year. The flights are subject to governmental approvals and slot availability.

Air India Launches Two New Flights From Thiruvananthapuram. Air India has launched two new flights from Thiruvananthapuram connecting Chennai and Bangalore, using Airbus A319 aircraft. The introduction of these two new flights will provide convenient connections for travel

between Chennai and Thiruvananthapuram, as well as between Bangalore and Thiruvananthapuram.

Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are two states being considered by Airbus for aircraft assembly line. The world's biggest commercial aircraft maker may develop India as its second unit outside Europe after China. The Airbus Final Assembly Line (FAL) will include around 2,600 metre long runway and facilities for painting, tests and final delivery of the plane. Depending on specific requirements and other costs, Airbus may have to employ 1,000 people over the next 3-4 years.



Karnataka in the news

Mega tourism project for Karnataka on anvil. The Karnataka government is devising a new Tourism Policy to give a boost to Health and Heritage Tourism in the state. As a part of Heritage Tourism, the state government is planning to promote a project at Hampi on 235 acre, which will have a five-star hotel with 200 rooms, budget hotel, restaurant, entertainment areas and other tourism related activities.

The Serai Hotel & Spa, Chikmagalur. This high end product is in operation over the past one month with 28 independent villas situated amidst a serene and tranquil environment, amidst a coffee estate. Each residence presents an eclectic combination of classic and contemporary design, global and local architecture and material. Each has a private pool and a gazebo. The dining options at The Serai include Odyssey, The Cuisines of the World Restaurant & Blue Sky Lounge. The Serai offers conference facilities with a capacity of seating of over 200. Oma – The Spa at the Serai is the place for physical, mental and spiritual rejuvenation.

The Orchid New Delhi, an Ecotel Hotel re-opens. Located near the international & domestic airports, the hotel is spread

over an expanse of 10.5 acres of scenic greenery. The Orchid offers spacious accommodations with the Deluxe Rooms facing the lawns, the Premium Deluxe Rooms and Royal Suites having a private balcony facing the lawns and the pool area. The dining options include Bonitos, a multi cuisine restaurant & bar and a Pool Snack counter. The other services include a Swimming pool, lawn tennis court, jogging track, large banqueting facilities with state of the art technology.



India Today

The Rickshaw Challenge likes to call itself 'an amazing race for the clinically insane'. Founded by an auto rickshaw owner in 2006, today it has participants from the world over coming to savour the adventurous race where they traverse every possible micro climate; metropolis, tropical jungle, arid desert, ancient valleys and epic coastline. All this in a three-wheeled vehicle with a two stroke engine. The organisation is also associated with charity through its Adopt A Village programme. The next one is the Mumbai Xpress 2009 starting on July 31 and ending on August 13, 2009.

In the busy world of the rich, the helicopter is as necessary as the Blackberry. In India's business capital of Mumbai, where traffic is a row of crawling cars at the best of times, tycoons in a hurry take the aerial route from the temporary helipad at Mahalaxmi Race Course or the domestic airport at Santa Cruz. Not all the rich and famous use their own private choppers; some simply hire them. Recent newspaper reports suggest that the state government plans to shortlist three sites for heliports, to offer dedicated chopper services to India Inc.

India 'to boost economic growth' Congress and its allies won a sweeping general election victory in May. The strong showing has raised expectations that the government will push ahead with economic reforms. Setting the new governments agenda in a speech to both houses of Parliament, President Pratibha Patil said India's new Congress-led government will focus on reviving economic growth and helping millions of poor people.



A Year... Already!

Indian Routes completed a year in operation last month & what a tremendous year it was.

We would like to thank you all for the great support that which contributed to our huge successes. So Roses for you & Kudos to the team.

To encourage more numbers to India & help promote the destination, we have organised various Fam Tours for professionals through out the summer. Write in to us and come enjoy the mangoes & monsoons as well.